



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission

Public Comment at FWP Commission Meetings

THIS POLICY IS EFFECTIVE AS OF February 13, 2007.

The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission (Commission) adopts the following policy regarding public comment protocol at Commission meetings.

The Commission values public input and will request public comment on applicable agenda items during regularly scheduled commission meetings. Typically, the request for public comment will come immediately following the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks' (Department) briefing and recommendations on the agenda item. Any interested persons from the public will be offered the opportunity to comment on the proposal and the Department's recommendations. The Commission reserves the right to limit length of comment due to concerns of time and fairness. The Commission will close public comment after all interested persons have had the opportunity to speak and begin deliberations. During deliberations, the Commission may ask questions of the department or persons who commented from the public. The Commission will then take executive action.

In view of the extensive opportunity for public comment at meetings across the state on hunting, fishing and trapping regulations, and as a matter of equity for citizens who cannot attend the commission meeting, when making final decisions on hunting, fishing and trapping regulations, the Commission will not open public comment unless a significant amendment to the tentative proposal is brought forth by the department or commission. Any comment taken will be limited to the amendment only.

The Agenda for each meeting will reflect this policy of the Commission.

STATEMENT OF LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR THE RULE

Section 2-3-103, MCA gives the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission and the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks authority to adopt and enforce rules, policies and guidelines regarding public participation in its decisions.

This policy was adopted by the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission on February 13, 2007.

Steve Doherty, Chairman
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Commission